



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens

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LECHUZA BEACH PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

What is Lechuza Beach? Lechuza is a sandy beach in Malibu, almost a quarter mile long, located three miles west of Zuma Beach between Broad Beach Road and the Pacific Ocean.

Who owns Lechuza Beach? The beach is a combination of private and public ownership. The public owns over 1,000 feet of beach frontage as a result of a \$9,000,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and also from private donations. The MRCA is a joint powers local government park agency that manages many thousands of acres in the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent areas.

How can I get there? You get to Lechuza Beach from Broad Beach Road that runs seaward of, and parallel to, Pacific Coast Highway in the city of Malibu. Broad Beach Road connects with Pacific Coast Highway at Trancas Canyon and again about 1.5 miles east (down-coast) of Encinal Canyon Road.

Is there public access? Yes, at present there are two public access points: (1) A stairway marked by a brown park sign saying "Lechuza Beach Access." This vertical access way goes from Broad Beach Road down to Lechuza Beach and is located opposite a street called "Bunnie Lane." (2) A pedestrian access gate is located at Sea Level Drive, east of Bunnie Lane. The public has the right to use Sea Level Drive to walk down to the beach. While there is an imposing gate and "private property" sign that blocks Sea Level Drive from vehicular access, that sign does not apply to the pedestrian access gate to the left. The public's right to walk along Sea Level Drive to the beach is controlled by the MRCA and access is both allowed and encouraged so long as the privacy of adjoining owners is respected.

What part of the beach is open to the public? From the end of the public stairway opposite Bunnie Lane, and from the end of the pavement on (east) Sea Level Drive, the public may use the entire width of the beach from the toe of the bluff to the Pacific Ocean for a length extending 1,040 linear feet up-coast. There is a private lot about 45 feet west of the Bunnie Lane stairway. This property is not posted but it is possible that the owner may ask members of the public to move off his small lot. However, the public always has the right to use the beach and ocean seaward of the Mean High Tide line.

What are the rules for beach use? Access ways are opened at 8:00 a.m. and close at sundown. Smoking, fires, alcohol, littering, defacing property, firearms, and the launching or use of jet skis are prohibited. Be careful because no lifeguard is on duty. The adjacent homeowners have the right to have their dogs on the beach, so the MRCA will not enforce against members of the public with their dogs so long as the dogs are under control and do not bother other beach users. All dogs must be cleaned-up after. The full MRCA Park Ordinance may be viewed at www.mrca.ca.gov.

THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS A SERVICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC; IT DOES NOT DESCRIBE THE TOTAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ALL PARTIES AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF ANY PUBLIC RIGHTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL LAURIE COLLINS AT (323) 221-9944 x 133. FOR RANGER SERVICES, OR TO REPORT AN ATTEMPT TO DENY OR DISCOURAGE PUBLIC ACCESS TO LECHUZA BEACH, PLEASE CALL (310) 456-7049 AND ASK FOR THE "ON CALL" RANGER.